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News Release

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Final 7 defendants in cocaine, crack cocaine distribution ring sentenced

The final seven defendants in a case involving a cocaine and crack cocaine distribution operation in the Twin Cities were sentenced today in federal court in Minneapolis. The other seven defendants in the case were sentenced yesterday. All 14 people were indicted on July 22, 2008. Thirteen of them pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and cocaine base, commonly known as crack cocaine, while one was tried and convicted by a jury in July of this year on one count of conspiracy.

Today, U.S. District Court Judge Michael J. Davis sentenced Jerry Martese Dubose, 30, of Minneapolis, to 120 months in prison; Darryl Lamont Woods, 35, address unknown, to 82 months in prison; Lee Kirk, 33, address unknown, to 60 months in prison; Brian Javon Nelson, age unknown, of Chicago, to 180 months in prison; Bernard Gaines, 35, address unknown, to 144 months in prison; Jamelle Davon Shoals, 23, address unknown, to 48 months in prison; and Alvin Dushawn Griffin, 27, of Minneapolis, to 24 months in prison.

Yesterday, Judge Davis sentenced Dexter Antonio Fields, 35, of Chicago, to 180 months in prison; Deon Leshawn Holmes, 32, of Mounds View, to 108 months in prison; James Germane Boss, 37, of Chicago, to 48 months in prison; Giovanni Lamar Turnipspeed, 28, address unknown, to 36 months in prison; Mario Leon Tyson, 31, address unknown, to 36 months in prison; Mark Robinson, 40, of Minneapolis, to 36 months in prison; and Leon Edward Lloyd, 25, address unknown, to 24 months in prison.

According to their respective plea agreements, the co-defendants admitted that from 2006 through May 16, 2008, they conspired to distribute 500 or more grams of cocaine and 50 or more grams of crack cocaine. Several also admitted transporting the drugs from Chicago to Minnesota.

The investigation into this case commenced in August 2007, when the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Violent Offender Task Force at the Minneapolis Police Department

received information about a large cocaine and crack cocaine distribution network that operated between Chicago and the Twin Cities. As part of their investigation, law enforcement wire tapped the telephone calls of three of the defendants after obtaining the court's permission to do so. Dubose was intercepted on all three of those wire taps.

This case was the result of an investigation by the FBI and the Minneapolis Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ann M. Anaya and Andrew R. Winter.